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IN THE CLAIMS

18.-21. (Canceled)

22. A method of activating an application controller unit that is coupled a Controller Area Network bus and that carries out an application, comprising:

a transceiver unit receiving an incoming message occurring on the data bus; and
the transceiver unit causing a protocol controller unit coupled to the application controller unit to be supplied with voltage first, before the application controller unit is supplied with voltage;

wherein the transceiver unit and the protocol controller unit are provided on different integrated circuits, and wherein the protocol controller unit is provided with a crystal oscillator input signal.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the protocol controller unit is addressed by the incoming message, comprising:

the transceiver unit conveying the incoming message to the protocol controller unit;

the protocol controller unit comparing the incoming message with a reference message that is associated with the application and is stored in the protocol controller unit;

if there is a match between the incoming message and the reference message, the protocol controller unit sending an acknowledgement to the transceiver unit; and

the transceiver unit, in response to the acknowledgement, activating the application controller unit.

24. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the application controller unit is only supplied with voltage if the incoming message and the reference message match.

25. A system comprising for use with a Controller Area Network data bus, the system comprising:

an integrated circuit comprising a transceiver unit coupled to the data bus; and
separate from said integrated circuit:

a protocol controller unit having a crystal oscillator input signal and
coupled to the transceiver unit; and

an application controller unit coupled the protocol controller unit and
coupled to the transceiver unit;

wherein the transceiver unit causes the protocol controller unit to be supplied with voltage first, before the application controller unit is supplied with voltage.

26. The system of claim 25, said integrated circuit comprising a first voltage regulator for supplying the protocol controller unit with voltage in the event an incoming message occurs on the data bus.

27. The system of claim 25, said integrated circuit comprising a second voltage regulator for supplying voltage to the application controller unit in the event of a match between an

incoming message that occurs on the data bus and a reference message stored in the protocol controller unit.